

A² CITY NEWS



The Newsletter for the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan

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This is a reprinted version of the original, which was e-mailed to A2 City News subscribers on Nov. 2, 2009. Further information on featured topics and current news can be found at www.a2gov.org.

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General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 3

In addition to City Council races in wards 1 and 4, the City of Ann Arbor also has two charter amendments on the ballot for the Nov. 3 General Election. For election information or polling locations, please visit the [elections page of the city's Web site](http://www.a2gov.org/elections) (www.a2gov.org/elections).

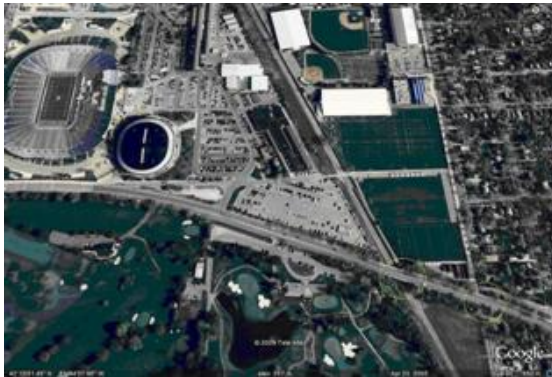
Please also note that, due to the General Election, City Council will meet on Thursday, Nov. 5 rather than Monday the 2nd.



City clerk e-mail address

The city clerk's office has a new general e-mail address: cityclerk@a2gov.org. Please use this address for absentee-voter ballot requests, general inquiries, responding to public notices and any requests that need prompt attention from the city clerk's office staff.

South State Street detours scheduled Nov. 15 - 17 (weather permitting)



At its meeting of Oct. 19, 2009, the Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution authorizing the removal of five beams from the south side of the East Stadium bridge over South State Street, as recommended following the Sept. 15, 2009, bridge inspection by Northwest Consultants Inc. (NCI). As a result, and aligned with the NCI recommendation to conduct the work prior to the start of winter, the city plans to remove the beams Sunday, Nov. 15 – Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, weather permitting. It will be necessary to close South State Street to traffic while the beam removal work is performed. A detour will be in effect during this time, and the detour map is posted on the [East Stadium bridges project Web site](http://www.a2gov.org/stadiumbridges) (www.a2gov.org/stadiumbridges). This Web site also includes updates as

they become available as well as project background information and resources. The public may also visit this page to subscribe for notifications via e-mail, by clicking on the red envelope on the right of the page.

"Because it is the city's top priority to ensure safety, the bridge structure continues to be closely monitored," said city [Senior Project Manager Michael Nearing, P.E.](mailto:mnearing@a2gov.org) (mnearing@a2gov.org) Questions can be directed to Nearing at 734.794.6410, extension 43635.

November holiday schedule

City government offices will be closed for Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11; however there will be no interruption in trash and recycling collection. Offices will also be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day, resuming Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th. The complete schedule of city events, meetings and programs can be found on the [calendar page](#)

of the Web site (www.a2gov.org/calendar). [Click here for the solid waste collection holiday schedule](#) (www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/solidwasteunit/Pages/SolidWasteHolidays.aspx).

DIY online

The city's Web site now features a "Do-it-yourself" online customer service portal (www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/customerservice/Pages/CityA2Self-ServicePortal.aspx). This new site provides visitors with easy access to links for making online payments, managing water accounts, locating essential municipal information, signing up for e-mail alerts and emergency notifications via phone, reporting service needs and much more.



Improved city phone tree is launched

When callers dial the new main phone number for the city — 734.794.6000 — they now have access to a more comprehensive “phone tree” menu of city units and services. The expanded menu is shared in a succinct recorded message, helping callers reach the person or service provider they need when they do not have a name or a direct extension. [A city phone directory is also available online by clicking here](#) (www.a2gov.org/contact/pages/contactus.aspx).

Ann Arbor fire services earns additional licensure

City of Ann Arbor Fire Services recently upgraded its medical licensure to Basic Life Support Agency status, thereby increasing its service and response capabilities. All of the department’s front-line apparatus and reserve apparatus are now licensed to carry additional specialized equipment, enabling fire services staff to respond even more effectively to life-threatening situations: diabetic emergencies, severe allergic/anaphylactic reactions and respiratory arrest or cardiac arrest (patients who cannot breathe on their own).



Ann Arbor Fire Services responded to 6,755 life-threatening and potentially life-threatening medical calls between Jan. 1, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2008. A rapid response time and appropriate, quality, pre-hospital care are the nucleus of a medical call. The fire department locations throughout the city make them an optimal resource for rapid response and initial scene treatment prior to the transport agencies arrival. This grants each patient the best chance of survival or early recovery.

Visit [Ann Arbor fire services online](http://www.a2gov.org/fire) for further details (www.a2gov.org/fire).

City information technology gets top honors

The Michigan Excellence in Technology Awards recently recognized the City of Ann Arbor information technology services unit for leadership, collaboration and innovation.

- ITSU Director Dan Rainey received the Leadership Award for demonstrating vision, leadership and support.
- The city/county data center consolidation project was recognized as the Best IT Collaboration Among Organizations.
- And the [Petitions Under Review application](#) (www.a2gov.org/PetitionsUnderReview) was awarded the Most Innovative Use of Technology.

“These awards underline the importance of the work that has been done toward improving the way we do business and leveraging relevant technologies to improve our customers’ experiences,” said City of Ann Arbor Chief Financial Officer Tom Crawford, who also oversees the city’s information technology services unit. Read more on the [“news” page of the city’s Web site](#) (www.a2gov.org/news).

American Planning Association recognizes South Main Street

Increasing housing density, preserving historic buildings and increasing transportation choices were all contributing factors in the American Planning Association's (APA) designation of Ann Arbor's South Main Street as one of the Great Places in America program 10 Great Streets for 2009. APA Great Places exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value. Two other Great Places designated in Michigan are Front Street in Traverse City and East Park in Charlevoix.



APA singled out South Main for its forward-looking planning and development aimed at helping lower the city's carbon footprint. "This award is a culmination of extensive public involvement in developing city policies that help to preserve the historic fabric of this street while allowing for contemporary uses to bolster this street's vitality and attractiveness," said City of Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje.

Another attraction of South Main Street is the historical character of the buildings and businesses. Eighty percent of the structures along the three blocks of South Main identified as a 2009 Great Street are protected by the city-designated Main Street Historic District, established in 1989. These buildings provide a streetwall rich in architectural detail, with windows and alcoves at the sidewalk edge that invite people to linger. Find details on this recognition on [the city's "news" Web page](http://www.a2gov.org/news) (www.a2gov.org/news).

City supports United Way of Washtenaw County



City of Ann Arbor employees raised more than \$22,700 for our neighbors in need served by United Way of Washtenaw County. In addition to making a pledge, city employees were also able to show their support and community spirit by participating in events and activities throughout the five-week campaign, including "Dollar Denim Thursdays"; "Friday Feuds," where employees could cast their vote on the topic of the week using their loose change; and a "Guest Grillers" fundraising dinner at Mongolian Barbecue, where city leadership worked the grill to prepare dinner for event guests.

City staff also actively supports other local causes throughout the year, including food drives, adopting families for the holidays and providing bikes to under-privileged children through the fire department's Bikes for Tykes program.

Upcoming city meetings and events

In addition to those listed below, many more city meetings and events are taking place throughout November. [Click here for the complete listing of November city meetings and events](http://www.a2gov.org/calendar) (www.a2gov.org/calendar).

- **Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.** — Citywide General Election
- **Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.** — City Council Meeting (Regular Session)
- **Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.** — Public Meeting: Northside sanitary sewer rehabilitation project
- **Wednesday, Nov. 11** — Veterans Day observed. City government offices are closed. No interruption in trash and recycling collection.
- **Thursday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.** — Public Meeting: Newport Creek Culvert Crossing & Bird Road sanitary sewer projects

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